







Electrodynamics and Potentials - II

Scalar Potential

Since:
$$\nabla \times \left| \vec{E}(\vec{r},t) + \frac{\partial \vec{A}(\vec{r},t)}{\partial t} \right| = 0$$

One may introduce a scalar potential as follows:

$$\vec{E}(\vec{r},t) + \frac{\partial A(\vec{r},t)}{\partial t} = -\nabla \phi(\vec{r},t)$$
$$\Rightarrow \quad \vec{E}(\vec{r},t) = -\frac{\partial \vec{A}(\vec{r},t)}{\partial t} - \nabla \phi(\vec{r},t)$$

Using the vector and scalar potentials, the expressions for E-field and H-field become:

> $\mu_0 \vec{H}(\vec{r},t) = \nabla \times \vec{A}(\vec{r},t)$ $\vec{E}(\vec{r},t) = -\frac{\partial \vec{A}(\vec{r},t)}{\partial t} - \nabla \phi(\vec{r},t)$



Choosing a "Gauge" in Electromagnetism

Non-uniqueness of the vector potential

The vector potential A is not unique – only the curl of the vector potential is a well defined quantity (i.e. the B-field):

$$\mu_{o} \vec{H}(\vec{r},t) = \nabla \times \vec{A}(\vec{r},t)$$

Demonstration: suppose we change the vector potential - such that the new vector potential is the old vector potential plus the gradient of some arbitrary function

$$\vec{A}_{new}(\vec{r},t) = \vec{A}(\vec{r},t) + \nabla \psi(\vec{r},t)$$

Then:

 $\nabla \times \vec{A}_{new}(\vec{r},t) = \nabla \times \vec{A}(\vec{r},t) + \nabla \times \nabla \psi(\vec{r},t)$ $\Rightarrow \nabla \times \vec{A}_{new}(\vec{r},t) = \nabla \times \vec{A}(\vec{r},t)$ The new vector potential is just as good as it will give the same B-field

Making the vector potential unique

A vector field can be uniquely specified (up to a constant) by specifying the value of its curl and its divergence

To make the vector potential A unique, one needs to fix the value of its divergence a process that usually goes by the names "gauge fixing" or "fixing the gauge" or "choosing a gauge"

 $\nabla . \vec{A}(\vec{r},t) = ??$





Scalar Potential Wave Equation

Using the vector and scalar potentials, the expressions for E-field and H-field were:

$$\mu_{o} \vec{H}(\vec{r},t) = \nabla \times \vec{A}(\vec{r},t) \qquad \qquad \vec{E}(\vec{r},t) = -\frac{\partial \vec{A}(\vec{r},t)}{\partial t} - \nabla \phi(\vec{r},t)$$

Gauss' Law becomes:

$$\nabla. \varepsilon_{o} \ \vec{E}(\vec{r},t) = \rho(\vec{r},t)$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad -\nabla^{2} \phi(\vec{r},t) - \frac{\partial \nabla. A(\vec{r},t)}{\partial t} = \frac{\rho(\vec{r},t)}{\varepsilon_{o}}$$

Remembering that:

$$\nabla . \vec{A}(\vec{r},t) = -\frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial \phi(\vec{r},t)}{\partial t}$$

We finally get:

$$\nabla^2 \phi(\vec{r},t) - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \phi(\vec{r},t)}{\partial t^2} = -\frac{\rho(\vec{r},t)}{\varepsilon_0}$$

This is the scalar potential wave equation with charge as the driving term

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Scalar and Vector Potential Wave EquationsGiven any arbitrary time-dependent charge and current density distributions one
can solve these two wave equations to get the potentials: $\nabla^2 \phi(\bar{r}, t) - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \phi(\bar{r}, t)}{\partial t^2} = -\frac{\rho(\bar{r}, t)}{\varepsilon_0}$ Scalar potential wave equation $\nabla^2 \bar{A}(\bar{r}, t) - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \bar{A}(\bar{r}, t)}{\partial t^2} = -\mu_0 \bar{J}(\bar{r}, t)$ Vector potential wave equationAnd then find the E- and H-fields using:Vector Potential wave equation

$$\mu_{o} \vec{H}(\vec{r},t) = \nabla \times \vec{A}(\vec{r},t)$$
$$\vec{E}(\vec{r},t) = -\frac{\partial \vec{A}(\vec{r},t)}{\partial t} - \nabla \phi(\vec{r},t)$$







$$\vec{E}(\vec{r},t) = \operatorname{Re}\left[\vec{E}(\vec{r}) e^{j\omega t}\right] \qquad \vec{H}(\vec{r},t) = \operatorname{Re}\left[\vec{H}(\vec{r}) e^{j\omega t}\right]$$
$$\vec{A}(\vec{r},t) = \operatorname{Re}\left[\vec{A}(\vec{r}) e^{j\omega t}\right] \qquad \phi(\vec{r},t) = \operatorname{Re}\left[\phi(\vec{r}) e^{j\omega t}\right]$$
$$\rho(\vec{r},t) = \operatorname{Re}\left[\rho(\vec{r}) e^{j\omega t}\right] \qquad \vec{J}(\vec{r},t) = \operatorname{Re}\left[\vec{J}(\vec{r}) e^{j\omega t}\right]$$

Assuming time harmonic currents, charges, and fields, the wave equations:

$$\nabla^2 \bar{A}(\bar{r},t) - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \bar{A}(\bar{r},t)}{\partial t^2} = -\mu_o \bar{J}(\bar{r},t)$$
$$\nabla^2 \phi(\bar{r},t) - \frac{1}{c^2} \frac{\partial^2 \phi(\bar{r},t)}{\partial t^2} = -\frac{\rho(\bar{r},t)}{\varepsilon_o}$$

become:

$$\nabla^{2} \bar{A}(\bar{r}) + k^{2} \bar{A}(\bar{r}) = -\mu_{o} \bar{J}(\bar{r})$$

$$\nabla^{2} \phi(\bar{r}) + k^{2} \phi(\bar{r}) = -\frac{\rho(\bar{r})}{\varepsilon_{o}}$$

$$k = \frac{\omega}{c}$$

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